

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action dated March 6, 2006. Applicants wish to express their gratitude to Examiner Prieto for withdrawing the finality of the previous Office Action in this case, dated September 7, 2005.

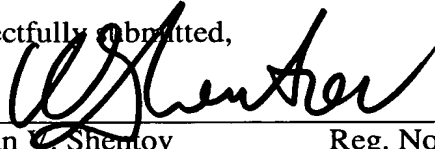
In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-46 of the present application were subjected to a three-way restriction requirement. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the pending claims are directed to more than one invention and thus required applicants to make an election under 35 U.S.C. §121 of one of the following claim groups:

- I. Claims 1-39, and 44-46;
- II. Claim 40; and
- III. Claims 41-42.

Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-39 and 44-46) for prosecution in this application, without prejudice to their rights to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected claim groups in one or more related applications.

Date: March 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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